



**The League of Women Voters® of Orange,
Seminole, Osceola, Volusia Counties**

P.O. Box 536208, Orlando, FL 32853-6208 • Voice: 407/894-6586 •

March 12, 2009

Dear Senator Constantine and Representative Cannon:

As you know, the League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization involved in advocating for important community initiatives at all levels of government. In Central Florida, our organization is the fastest growing in the State.

We write to you today to stress the importance of SunRail not only for Central Florida, but also for the entire State. We believe passage of legislation required to finalize SunRail is THE key to smart growth for Central Florida, and one of the most important accomplishments we hope will be achieved in this 2009 legislative session. It also marks a turning point in how we approach transportation planning statewide.

For 34 years the central Florida Leagues have supported a **multi modal transportation system** that will finally give our citizens a **real transportation alternatives** to sitting in some of the worst congestion nationwide, absorbing a full 25 percent of an average household income.

A commuter rail is a win/win for the entire state. Why? This project will:

- **Bring added jobs to the state** through denser development near rail corridor, initiating \$8.8 billion in economic benefits for the state and 260,000 jobs.
- **Utilize federal transportation funds** to build important infrastructure that will provide generations of our Florida citizens means to get places easily, conveniently and safely.
- **Provide our elderly with transit options** when driving is no longer safe for them.
- **Help position Florida as a transit friendly state**, enabling us to compete against the 11 other states eligible for the \$8 billion in federal funds being allocated for high-speed rail.
- **Connect 15 percent of the state's population** along with two of the region's largest employers
- **Reduce congestion** in Central Florida, one of the en most congested regions nationwide.
- **Decrease emissions** thus improving air and water quality.

We know that you face difficult decisions this legislative session. But, we also know that young and old, rich and poor, healthy and infirm all count on a reliable transportation system. **The time for excuses and "what ifs" is past – now is the time for SunRail.**

Sincerely,

Deirdre Macnab, President, Orange LWV
Deana Schott, President, Seminole LWV
Joanne Tinsley, President, Osceola LWV
Sandra Horikami, President, Volusia LWV